

Customs Modernization

February 2001 Status Update for Oversight Organizations

Modernization at-a-Glance

Timeline

- Dec. 22, 2000: RFP released
- Feb. 5, 2001: Proposals were due
- Apr. 25, 2001: Contract award
- July 2001: Requirements development begins

Funding Status

- \$130M was appropriated for Modernization
- \$123M was appropriated for Automated Commercial System (ACS) operations and maintenance
- \$5.4M was appropriated for planning and piloting the International Trade Data System (ITDS)

A Special Thanks

Thank you to those who supported Customs in pursuing funding for the Customs Modernization effort. This milestone is the result of hard work by our agency, the trade community, and many members of Congress, especially Chairman Jim Kolbe, Congressman Steny Hoyer, and Senators Ben Campbell and Byron Dorgan.

Customs Modernization: We're ready, We're set ... Let's go!

On December 21, 2000, P.L. 106-554, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, was enacted, appropriating funds for the Customs Modernization effort. After five years of preparation, modernization is no longer an idea. It's one step closer to becoming a reality.

A total of \$130 million was appropriated for the new Customs Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). In addition, the funding contains \$123 million in maintenance funds for the aging Automated Commercial System (ACS), and \$5.4 million for planning and piloting the International Trade Data System, the future front end of ACE.

The appropriated funds provide the resources for Customs Modernization plans to materialize. The first step was the release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) on December 22, 2000.

Next Steps

Customs anticipates awarding the contract to a world-class prime integration contractor to design, build, and integrate the modernized systems.

Within two months after contract award, work on the state-of-the-art ACE system will begin.

Currently the Customs Modernization Office (CMO) is working closely with other Customs offices to identify subject matter experts (SME) to be a part of the Customs Modernization team to assist in requirements development. A once-in-a-career opportunity, the SME positions will offer employees a great opportunity to provide guidance in the development of a system that will increase efficiency, provide better technology solutions, and maximize the skills of the Customs workforce.

Requirements development is expected to take approximately six months. The CMO estimates the first release of ACE to appear 9 to 12 months after requirements development is complete.

"ACE is not only good for Customs, it's good for America."

— Charles W. Winwood,
Customs Acting Commissioner on
the release of the Modernization
Request for Proposals

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Customs Modernization:
New World, New Tools